

NEW YORK CLIPPER

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THE CALL BOY.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY MONROE H. ROSENFELD.

It is the nimble call boy,
He gives a lordly rap,
And bellows through the key hole,
With lots of vim and snap,
His customary message—
The dapper little chap.

Tho' Tragedy may linger
In dreams of awful might,
And Comedy be laughing
In visions of delight;
His simple words: "Your cue, sir!"
Will put them all to flight.

The acme of importance,
He struts upon the scene;
Tho' often very red of face
He's anything but green;
Wrapt up in awful mystery,
The stage he rules serene.

How many stars have faded,
In histrionic skies,
Since he came on the tapis—
This youth with air so wise!
Lord of the wings and set rocks,
Flats, footlights and the flies!

The seasons come and vanish,
But, ah! he never goes;
He groweth not to manhood,
As every actor knows—
A call boy once, a call boy
He lingers to life's close!

Oh, type of him whose message
Shall come to me and you!
Ere down is rung the curtain
On life's stern drama true;
He enters, Death, the call boy,
With "Ready! sir, your cue!"

IN THE JAWS OF WOLVES. A BATTLE IN A BLIZZARD.

WRITTEN FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER,
BY BARTLEY COYNE.

Snow falls early in the middle Rockies, very early some seasons. But the first fall does not always presage a winter right at hand. Many delightful days of genial autumn weather often intervene between the "first snow" and that which comes to stay at winter's stern behest.

It was on the twentieth of September in the season I write of, the day an ideal one, bright and balmy, up to about 2 P. M., when a northern suddenly set in, the balmy atmosphere giving way to one of bluster, chill and discomfort. In five minutes after the norther struck us—I am liberal as to minutes, for the weather changes in the Rockies are very sudden at times—not a speck of the deep blue sky was to be seen. A white pall, or grey-white, sullen and threatening, had been drawn by the storm king across the broad blue expanse, shutting out all nature, for a limited area, from the bright and genial canopy that not a cloud had flecked for days before. And with the coming of this gray-white pall, which, mind you, shut out the blue of the sky in less time than we make any account of, except in critical and supreme moments, when seconds seem hours, snow was falling—no, riding on the blast—fine, feathery, fanciful flakes of snow, so wonderful under examination, so terrible under certain circumstances. These flakes did not fall, understand, as in city snow storms generally, being borne on the blast from North to South, but, filling all space, as they did, touched everything with ermine, save the lee sides of objects rising above the level, respite these only for a moment, and in spots, falling and swirling in the eddies then and finishing their work of fleecy decoration.

It was beautiful to look at, this drastic handiwork of nature, for drastic it certainly was, but that the chilling wind, increasing every moment in velocity and coldness, the snow flying faster and faster, precluded all enjoyment of the scene. Besides, the thought that we were caught in a blizzard—a Rocky Mountain blizzard—rather unnerved us for landscape painting, even though the storm king was the artist on the occasion.

We were not greatly separated when the norther struck us, but, if ever feathered bipeds "flocked" together, on the instant, we three human bipeds in woolen and buckskin "flocked," you may depend, all meeting under a large scrub oak, to which two of us, Tom Baker and myself, had been called by the third—really the first, for he was the leader of the party—Joe Belden, who chanced to be near the tree when the storm burst, and which tree stood alone, the region round about being sparsely timbered.

"Well, boys," said Joe, as we came up under the lee of the tree and shook the snow from our persons, "this lets out for a corker. It is a corker for its age, but it may not be long lived. No one can tell about these blizzards—the firstlings of the flock—not in their infancy. This youngster, a promisee one, may die afore it cuts its first tooth, or it may live to die of old age, in sixty hours from date, in which case I think it will outlive us. I think the best thing we can do for the present is to climb a tree—this one, of course. It has four branches to the north, and what with them and the boughs and twigs and leaves and things, the crotch'll give us some protection from this blizzard's blast. Anyhow, we can't get back to the shanty in this drive, that's a sure thing—why a wolf couldn't find his den twenty feet away!"

"You bet!" exclaimed Tom Baker, laughing. "There he is now, lost and whining because he can't find it." His ears hadn't been quicker than ours, but his tongue had. The low, deep, penetrating and peculiar howl of the wolf came to our ears as he spoke and pointed to the South. Nothing could be seen, of course, for the air was filled with driving snow; but the fact that the howl came against the blast argued that the "gray devil" was not far away.

We got up the tree without more ado—it grew, gnarled and seamed, at an angle, and was easy to mount—and before Joe, the last to get up, had settled himself in the rooky crotch, a grand chorus

of howls saluted our ears. It was evident that more than one wolf was lost, from that weird chorus, which, though muffled by the blast, was sufficiently clear in its dismal, depressing and penetrating tones to have set the teeth of a tenderfoot on edge and chilled him to the marrow, even under a burning sun—it didn't warm the marrow in our seasoned bones. The symphony was too diabolically depressing, the situation considered, though we had nothing to fear from a wolf visitation, circumscribed as we were.

"Are those brutes hungry, Joe, do you think?" I asked. "That howl seemed to come from the low-est depths of their stomachs."

"Hungry? The wolf is always hungry, Bart. He

arm then, and not distributed among the redskins by the rascally 'agents,' a fact to which we owed our safety in the hills, the reds knowing we had the 'heap shoot' guns, and fearing them, though they in overwhelming numbers had forced us from the field at times by driving away the game—with our magazine rifles. I say, we felt that we were good for a hundred of the ravening beasts, as Tom had said, and more, very likely, without wasting cartridges on the whole of them. Shoot a dozen of the ever hungry beasts in a pack of thirty, wounding them only, maybe, the rest will fall upon the dead or disabled ones, and, satisfying their craving for the time being, slink away if permitted. That's the kind of skalawag the wolf is. But you don't

saying to mount the tree by a spring that had landed him well up, the death spring landing him in the jaws of his companions. "Come on, ye bloody buccaneers of the hills—come on! I'm standin' by to repel boarders, and don't ye forget it! Say, thar, you Bart and Tom, shoot, but not too fast. This bliz is short lived, and we want too see some of the fun below, which we shall shortly. The wind is fallin' and so's the snow, instid o' drivin', as ye'll take notice. Ha! another reckless leader of a forlorn hope!" and Joe's rifle added the peroration, a second wolf going to join the majority, thus paying the penalty of his foolhardiness."

Willing to wait, I changed my position to one nearer Joe, and facing as he faced. I wanted to see

cold to my heart, rung out on the air, hushing the yelping pack below! Tom had lost his footing, and gone down to the bloody jaws of the raging devil beasts beneath! Horror paralyzed me, but not Joe. Like a flash—before my frozen tongue could utter a sound—he dropped his rifle, whipped out his hunting knife, and like an avalanche slid down the snow covered sloping trunk, a voluntary offering to the bloody and rapacious jaws of the gray demons below—down, down to a horrible death, as I felt certain!

Instantly the fetters of paralysis that had chained me were riven asunder. Hot instead of frozen blood coursed in my veins. I was myself again; aye, more, much more—I felt transformed! And I too, the third and last, slid down that tree, but strange to say, without a thought of the horror awaiting me! To a certain extent I was, perhaps, insane! What mattered it? Better so, for it needed a madman to deal with those mad brutes—forty to one, for all I knew.

I can't describe the fight that followed—the fight that Joe and I made against those snarling gray beasts, with snapping and bloody jaws, there in the gloom of the falling snow. It was bloody and terrible, but effective on our part, as it had need to be. If not sheer madness, then its first cousin, frenzy, it was that nerved our right arms—our left arms, too, for, not daring to use our revolvers for obvious reasons, these were fenders, the hands grappled, also our well booted feet, used with no little effect at times. If a fight of madness, it was one without method, and with our knives only as destructive weapons. A pitch in, right and left, rough-and-tumble, cut-and-slash, scratch-and-claw, bite-and-chaw fight, the like of which men and wolves never before fought under the same circumstances, probably. And the knife was the weapon of all others in that in-and-out battle to the death, fought in silence on our part, with savage snarls and horrid howls on the part of our brute antagonists. A fight for life on our part—so, indeed, on the part of the wolves, they electing to continue it—with death in one of its most horrid forms facing us; facing the wolves, too, and to them, perchance, in form as horrid!

And Joe Belden, a tall, broad, powerful and active fellow—how he did fight those raging devils in gray hair! Standing over what seemed a small mound—it was the inanimate body of poor Tom Baker—he swept about him with his keen and bloody knife describing nearly a circle, the blade rarely going to right or left without finding a victim among the beasts besetting him. There, in the falling flakes, his big form magnified in the gray light, and distorted by the clinging snow, portions of which he flung off in clouds with every movement, he seemed not like a human being, but some weird shape of unknown life and preternatural powers. One could have fancied him the giant genius of destruction in active service, bent on achieving his fell purpose, and achieving it! Torn and bleeding, as I knew he must be from my own case, bearing the brunt of the fight, and having not only his own person, but that of Tom Baker to defend, heeding not his hurts, he fought like a demigod against those ravening beasts, not one of which, I felt certain, had fished a tooth in the body of poor Tom since he, the defender, had appeared! Oh, but it was a sight to see, indistinct as it was, and, at a glance at the gladiator, during a momentary respite from attack on my own person, I took it in.

Only a glance, only a fraction of a second, and I sprang toward Joe, but a few feet away, thinking to create a diversion in his favor. At that very instant he went down—he had somehow slipped and lost his footing—and quicker than a flash one of the wolves was upon him; and quicker than a flash again—for I was on the way—was I upon that wolf! With a grasp like that of a vice I seized the brute by the scruff of the neck, and in a jiffy had cut his throat—yes, his head clean from his body!

"Ha! old man," said Joe, springing at once to his feet, "you saved my life that time, I reckon!" There was no time for further words, for the Philistines were upon us. It was a hot charge—five of the gray devils at us—but it was the last. Three of them went down. In one, two, three order, before our busy knives, but the other two struck me full tilt in the back, just as I had plunged my knife into one of the others, and down I went prone to the snow, feeling the fangs of one of the beasts in my shoulder. But Joe was there and did for me what I had done for him—more, for he settled the hash of two wolves! Oh, but he was a good man, that Joe Belden—a man of sand—a never-say-die man! A man to bet your bottom dollar on in moments of peril!

When I got to my feet the snow had ceased to fall, and the sky was blue again! The storm blast had departed as suddenly as it came. The blizzard didn't live to cut its first tooth, as Joe said might happen, and lucky for us it didn't, for we were sadly torn and, what with the loss of blood, our exertions, and the frenzy of the fight over, a sorry couple of masculine homos!

As I said, that charge upon us of five wolves was the last—the fight, fought to a finish, was finished! Nine wolves sneaked away from us under the blue sky, and we didn't even fire a pistol shot at them. We had had enough and they had had a feast! Every one of the nine we believed to be wounded, and they were the remnant only of a pack of forty, as near as we could conjecture from a look over the battle field, which revealed twenty six bodies and portions of bodies, ten having been torn to pieces and partially devoured. These ten had doubtless been shot from the tree, as had five others which had not been preyed upon or out. This showing proved that Joe and I slid down that tree to battle with at least twenty maddened wolves!

Tom Baker, who killed and put in the way of being killed by their own kind more than his share of the gray beasts, and then fell to what he must have thought for a second or two, as I myself thought, a horrible death, was not greatly hurt. His collar bone was broken, his scalp and one of his hands were torn by the wolves' teeth, and he was stunned by the fall. He recovered from his hurts weeks before Joe and I did from ours, and always regretted that, though his body had been so near, his spirit had been so far from that wolf fight. It would have been vastly farther had Joe Belden hesitated a fraction of a second at the supremely critical moment when he, Tom, fell!



JOHN WARD.

is born hungry, grows up hungry and dies hungry."

"Well, what are the fool beasts rushing up against this snow blast for? Why don't they scud before the gale? Have they got our scent, think?"

"Whether they have or not, they know their biz, old man—that they can run out of this blast to wind'ard, quicker 'n they can to leeward. If the woods got adre to wind'ard of ye, ye'd p'nt up, wouldn't ye, even if ye got burned a little, rather than run to leeward?" Joe had sailed the sea in his younger days, hence the terms he used. "Bout the scent, its nuggets to pyrites they've got it, for the wolf's nose is allus on duty."

"Well, if these beasts are onto us," said Tom, "it'll be more fun shootin' 'em than sittin' here quietly and freezing to death. We're good for a hundred of 'em, easy enough, and they don't travel in gangs like that, outside of Siberia, if there."

"Prob'ly not. As to fun, I shouldn't wonder if we had considerable of it in a serious way afore we got through with the critters, if there's a good sized pack of 'em. You see," Joe went on to say, "the critters can take this tree 'bout as well as we did, and will, you bet, if despr'tly bent on havin' our meat. Yee see, we ain't more'n fifteen foot from the ground, by the tree line—not more'n 'leven from plumb line—and a good spring, if the snow doesn't bother, would bring one of the cusses eight or ten foot up the tree, when, if his toe nails ain't worn down to the quick, he could catch and gather for the next spring, which would land him right in our laps—allus providin' we didn't shoot when he first landed, of course. Hello! here the cusses are, close in! No doubt 'bout their havin' our scent, I guess."

Howls, barks and snarls, fierce and grating, blended in diabolical chorus, saluted our ears as Joe spoke. Even with the wind against the voicing of the gray devils, it seemed close in, and must have been nearer than it seemed. But we could see nothing—nothing but fiercely driving snow. We got ready, however, to receive the enemy if he should attempt to storm the tree, as Joe had intimated, and would have asked no better fun in clear weather, for with our magazine rifles—a new

want to meet him, multiplied by twenty, save holding the coil of vanity.

Yes, with our repeating rifles, to say nothing of revolvers and long hunting knives, the latter, however, not considered, for obvious reasons, we felt equal to, and eager for the coming fray—it would lessen the tedium of imprisonment in that tree, in consequence of the driving snow blast—and Joe, having been the last to mount, sat with ready rifle, commanding the sloping trunk, as though cock sure it would be essayed, while Tom and I, each astride of a branch, were ready to shoot down upon the enemy when he came up and made his presence felt if not seen.

"Boys, the critters are right onto us," suddenly said Joe, relieving somewhat our suspense. "I see, or fancy I see, rollin' masses of snow"—a chorus of sharp yelps and savage snarls, at close range broke in upon him, the crack of his rifle breaking in on the chorus and hushing it at once—he had fired at what he saw, or fancied he saw, opening the ball, so to speak. An instant later and the wolves were about the tree, the vibration of the latter, as it was struck by the foremost leaping brutes, attesting the fact. Besides, we could now see—it was no fancy—what looked like leaping masses of snow, others that circled rapidly about the tree, the whole confused and violently agitated mass, indistinct and ghostly, but palpably more real than ghostly forms or wraiths of snow, as the sharp yelps and snarls, coming straight up to our ears, attested.

Together Tom and I fired down into the moving mass. That we struck the quarry—we couldn't possibly miss—was certain from the savage chorus of raging yells that followed the shots, and the rushing and piling together of the shadowy forms—the wounded ones had been fallen upon by the others and were being torn to pieces! An instant later, while Tom and I were watching the shadowy yet raging commotion below, we felt a shock as though the tree had been struck by a colliding body, then heard the crack of Joe's rifle, and his voice saying:

"Thar goes down the fust o' the stormin' party, kerchunk!"—he had shot one of the gray devils es-

what I could of these insatiable hell dogs attempt to carry the tree by assault; but the air was thicker now with falling than it had been with driving snow, if possible, and I could barely make out Joe's form in front of me. However, I felt something in a moment—a third wolf had sprung up the tree. Joe's rifle blazed and cracked on the instant. Then, in spite of the snow, I saw a shadowy mass rise in the air and come toward us. It might or might not have been the wolf's death spring. Joe may have missed him, and the beast gathered for a second spring. I think, however, it was the spring of death agony. Anyhow, we both fired at once and the shadowy form, turning into air, fell across the tree right in front of Joe, with the thud of substance, then fell to the raving jaws below.

In the meantime Tom Baker had been shooting into the yelping pack at the rate of a shot a minute. Apparently he was seeing enough fun through the snow dimly to satisfy him, so pumped lead into the devil dogs below, regardless of a possible clear up, which would afford more all round satisfaction, and all the time, too, the vicious snarls and cries of the raging brutes, rendered fiendishly furious by the taste of flesh and blood of their own kind, had been dinning in our ears without cessation, the constant, devilish concatenation of sounds jarring my nerves not a little, however it affected those of my friends.

"Say Tom, old man," now said Joe, his eyes front and his rifle muzzle ditto, "go easy thar and we'll see some of this cirks shortly, when it clears. It's like playin' blind man's buff now, and we the blind man. You must have hurt, if not done for, a dozen or more of the varmints, and Bart and me's done up three; and that's 'bout half the pack, as I calculate, old man."

"Half the pack?" broke in Tom, "why, there's a hundred of the snarlins curs down there now, if there's one!"

"That's what the boy said 'bout the black cats, old man."

"I'll bet I'm right, and go down and count." He stopped short, and then came the horror of the hour and day! A cry—"Oh! my God!"—so laden with terror and anguish as to drive the blood

VARIETY AND MINSTRELSY

• Smith out for running out of line.

MCCUSKER, the American champion pro swimmer, is again on his way across the Atlantic as subject of making a new record. McCusker, a swimmer who defeated McCusker last year in the world's championship at a mile. They are due to swim in September for the championship prize of \$2,000. McCusker will start on July 27, or July 21, on the Warren steamer Sackem.

TYERS, the English champion swimmer, won the amateur championship of England against a local amateur at the West India docks, in the River Thames, during a long course race 38 A. He finished second off, and J. A. Jarvis was third. At the Barchin, July 2, in a 12yd. race, with five turns, Tyers beat, breaking the record by swimming 6

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THE DELTORELLIS,

MUHLAMBARK'S Great TROUPE
OF ARABIAN ACROBATS,
SIGNOR BORELLI,
COLLINS and HENSHAW,
JULES KELLAR,
MAZUZ and ABACCO,
O'BRIEN and REDDING,
FRERES CRESCENDO,
MME. INEZ MECUSKER,
W. P. SWEATNAM,
FREDERIC SOLOMON,
JOHN C. RICE and SALLY COHEN,
STIRK and ZENO,
THE BARRA TROUPE,
CRIFFIN and MARKS,
OLYMPIA QUARTET,
MCINTYRE and HEATH,
THE DE FORRESTS,

MONS. DE BESSELL,
MISS IDA MULLE,
MISS HILDA THOMAS,
KATIE ROONEY,
SEXTON BROTHERS,
ABACCHI and MAZUD,
MME. JENNY DICKERSON,
LOUIS CYR,
FALKE and SEMONS,
THE DELINA SISTERS,
THE TWO CLIPPERS,
FOUR VENDOMES,
GILMORE and LEONARD,
FILSON and ERROL,
MONROE and MACK,
THE NAWNS,
GILBERT SARONY,
AL. H. WILSON,

AND A HOST OF OTHER STARS.

Vaudeville Performers writing for engagements will please address the **RESIDENT MANAGERS** of the different houses, as each theatre does its own booking.